

Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20554

|   |   |                      |
|---|---|----------------------|
| In the Matter of:                                       | ) |                      |
|   | ) |                      |
| 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Review of the        | ) | MB Docket No. 02-277 |
| Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other        | ) |                      |
| Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the            | ) |                      |
| Telecommunications Act of 1996                          | ) |                      |
|   | ) |                      |
| Cross-Ownership of Broadcast Stations and Newspapers    | ) | MM Docket No. 01-235 |
|   | ) |                      |
| Rules and Policies Concerning Multiple Ownership of     | ) | MM Docket No. 01-317 |
| Radio Broadcast Stations in Local Markets               | ) |                      |
|   | ) |                      |
| Definition of Radio Markets                             | ) | MM Docket No. 00-244 |
|   | ) |                      |
| Definition of Radio Markets for Areas Not Located In An | ) | MB Docket No. 03-130 |
| Arbitron Survey Area                                    | ) |                      |
| TO THE COMMISSION                                       |   |                      |

**COMMENTS ON PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION**

The Diversity and Competition Supporters respectfully comment on four other petitions for reconsideration in this proceeding.<sup>1/</sup>

**I. Consumer Federation of America and Consumers Union**

CFA and CU present a number of objections to the Commission's Diversity Index. CFA and CU Petition for Reconsideration, pp. 14-24. We generally agree with CFA/CU's analysis. In particular, CFA and CU object to the equal weighting of media with vastly different audience sizes and intensities of audience use. Our Source Diversity Formula included coefficients that accounted for these factors. See Diversity and Competition Supporters' Petition for Reconsideration, pp. 19-20.<sup>2/</sup> Yet the Commission did not evaluate our formula or even mention its existence, further underscoring CFA and CU's contention that the Diversity Index is fundamentally flawed.<sup>3/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> The views expressed in these Comments are the institutional views of the Diversity and Competition Supporters, and do not necessarily reflect the individual views of each of their respective officers, directors, advisors or members.

<sup>2/</sup> This formula was developed in the Diversity and Competition Supporters Reply Comments (February 3, 2003), pp. 17-24, and in the April 28, 2003 Letter to Hon. Michael K. Powell from David Honig, pp. 6-7 and n. 15.

<sup>3/</sup> Our formula measured consumer utility from source diversity. But even if the Commission were correct in finding that source diversity is unimportant, our formula could be adapted to measure other forms of diversity in a manner that properly weights all media to avoid the anomalous results discussed by CFA and CU.

## **II. Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc.**

UCC urges the Commission to reconsider its decision to eliminate the Sales Solicitation Feature of the failed, failing and unbuilt stations rules. UCC Petition for Reconsideration, pp. 25-26. We agree with UCC's analysis, having also objected to this decision. See Diversity and Competition Supporters Petition for Reconsideration, pp. 32-36.

UCC points to an aspect of this problem that we had overlooked: the Commission's decision to consider stations' desire to complete the transition to DTV as a factor in granting failed/failing/unbuilt station waivers and permitting additional duopolies. UCC Petition for Reconsideration, p. 26. As UCC points out, "[s]ince virtually every applicant can argue that allowing the proposed merger will help it to complete the transition to DTV, this factor potential renders the waiver standard meaningless." Id. Many, if not most duopolizable stations (i.e., those not ranked #1 through #4 in the ratings) will find a way to qualify as at least a "failing" station under this interpretation of the rules.

## **III. National Organization for Women**

NOW points out that the Commission "never cites NOW's comments or *ex parte* letters which explained that minorities and women are drastically underrepresented in station ownership." NOW Petition for Reconsideration, p. 2. We had a similar experience in the proceedings below. See Diversity and Competition Supporters Petition for Reconsideration, pp. 1-28 (showing that the Commission largely ignored the minority ownership issue and entirely disregarded eleven proposals to address this issue while irrationally postponing two proposals and rejecting another).

NOW further points out that it is insufficient for the Commission merely to promise to address these issues in a future rulemaking proceeding. Noting that the Commission issued a notice of proposed rulemaking in 1995 on this subject but never completed it, NOW predicts that "the Commission may never complete" a new minority and female ownership proceeding.<sup>4/</sup>

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<sup>4/</sup> Id., p. 3 (citing Policies and Rules Regarding Minority and Female Ownership of Mass Media Facilities (NPRM), 10 FCC Rcd 27888 (1995)).

NOW's prediction seems well taken, given the manner in which the Commission handled our proposals.<sup>5/</sup>

**IV. National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters**

NABOB points out that the Commission deferred consideration of all of NABOB's proposals until the Commission adopts an NPRM to consider minority ownership proposals. NABOB Petition for Reconsideration, p. 7. NABOB's proposals have merit. Like our proposals, NABOB's proposals deserve consideration now. As Commissioner Copps noted, "I fail to see how we can perpetuate diversity of viewpoint, for example, without addressing minority ownership. Ownership matters to diversity. The issue of its impact on women and minorities should not be relegated to a Further Notice at some indeterminate time."<sup>6/</sup>

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<sup>5/</sup> See, e.g., Diversity and Competition Supporters Petition for Reconsideration, pp. 16-19, discussing two 1999 MMTC proposals that the Commission refused in 2001 to rule upon until it evaluated certain research studies published in 2000. When we presented these proposals again in our Comments in this proceeding, the Commission failed even to mention their existence.

<sup>6/</sup> Report and Order, 18 FCC Rcd 13620, 13966 (2003) (Dissenting Statement of Commissioner Michael Copps).

Respectfully submitted,

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National Coalition of Hispanic Organizations  
National Council of La Raza  
National Hispanic Media Coalition  
National Indian Telecommunications Institute  
National Urban League  
Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc.  
PRLDEF-Institute for Puerto Rican Policy  
UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc.  
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September 4, 2003

**Certificate of Service**

I, David Honig, hereby certify that I have this 6th day of October, 2003 caused a copy of the foregoing "Comments on Petitions for Reconsideration" to be sent by U.S. First Class Mail, Postage Prepaid, to the following:

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/s/

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